GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2600
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
LITERACY RATE
Agarwal Shri Dhirendra;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Thummar Shri Virjibhai;Verma Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rural literacy programmes in operation in the country,State-wise;

(b) the literacy rate of the rural areas and urban areas in the country separately,State-wise;

(c) whether the literacy rate in rural areas of the country is not satisfactory as compared to urban areas;

(d) if so,the reasons for low literacy rate in rural areas;

(e) if so,the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken to increase literacy rate in rural areas;

(f) the funds allocated for rural literacy during the Eleventh Plan period,State-wise;

(g) the targets set for National Literacy Mission,Adult Education and Janshikshan Sansthan for the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(h) the extent to which the targets set have been achieved; and

(i) the steps taken to overcome the hurdles in achieving the targets?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) Literacy programmes under National Literacy Mission focus on providing functional literacy to non literates in the age group 15-35 in both rural and urban areas as per the proposals received from the districts.

(b) The State wise details of literacy rates in urban and rural areas as per Census 2001 are placed at Annexure-I.

(c) The urban literacy rate is 79.9% while the rural literacy rate is 58.7% representing a 21.18 percent point gap.

(d) Many factors contribute to the lower literacy levels in rural areas including socio economic and cultural barriers,gender disparities and poverty.

(e) & (f) Programmes under National Literacy Mission include provision for functional literacy,post literacy and continuing education. In addition, steps have been taken to universalize elementary education through enhancement of financial outlays for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA),introduction of cooked Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme for all children in classes I-VIII in Government/Local Body and Government Aided schools etc., and through this process to arrest the influx of persons into the pool of adult illiterates,including those in rural areas.The funds allocated during the Eleventh Plan are Rs.71,000 crores for SSA,Rs.48,000 crores for MDM,and Rs.6,000 crores for adult education.

(g) (h) &(i) 198 Jan Shikshan Sansthans (JSS) were sanctioned upto the end of the X Plan.During the XI Plan it is proposed to establish 50 JSSs in addition to the 23 JSS already sanctioned in 2007-08.